AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) A composition for providing protective immunity against Streptococcus equi infection following Streptococcus equi challenge comprising a live non-encapsulated attenuated Streptococcus equi in combination with an immunostimulant that stimulates mucosal immunity when administered to nasal or oral mucosa, wherein said immunostimulant is saponin.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein said Streptococcus equi is strain 709-27 (ATCC 53186).

6. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein said saponin is in the amount of from about 1 to about 10 mg/ml of said composition.

7. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein said saponin is in the amount of from about 3 to about 7 mg/ml of said composition.

8. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein said saponin is in the amount of from about 4 to about 6 mg/ml of said composition.

9-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said Streptococcus equi is strain 709-27 (ATCC 53186).

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said Streptococcus equi is strain 709-27 (ATCC 53186).

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said attenuated Streptococcus equi is in the amount of from about 10^5 to about 10^{11} Colony Forming Unit (CFU).

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said attenuated Streptococcus equi is in the amount of from about 10^6 to about 10^{10} Colony Forming Unit (CFU).

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said attenuated Streptococcus equi is in the amount of from about 10^7 to about 10^9 Colony Forming Unit (CFU).

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A method of stimulating an immune response to Streptococcus equi comprising contacting cells of the nasopharyngeal mucosa of an equine with a composition comprising a live non-encapsulated attenuated Streptococcus equi in combination with an immunostimulant that stimulates mucosal immunity, wherein said immunostimulant is saponin, and wherein the composition provides protective immunity against Streptococcus equi infection following Streptococcus equi challenge.

24. (Previously presented) A method for preventing at least one of the symptoms associated with Streptococcus equi infection in equine comprising administering nasally or by mouth to said equine an effective amount of a composition comprising a live non-encapsulated attenuated Streptococcus equi in combination with an immunostimulant that stimulates mucosal immunity, wherein said immunostimulant is saponin, and wherein the composition is suitable for providing protective immunity against Streptococcus equi infection following Streptococcus equi challenge.